

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 25, 2008 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. By way of the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 25, 2005, claims 11-21 are currently pending, with claim 11 being in independent form. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections stated in the Office Action in view of the following remarks.

Telephone Interview:

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for discussing the current application and the Office Action in a telephone conversation on May 5, 2008. This Response is made according to the Examiner's comments.

Claim Objections and Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph:

Claims 4-10 have been objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for lacking a clear and proper transitional phrase and for containing certain claim limitations that lack proper antecedent basis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections and rejections are respectfully requested.

The present application is the United States national stage of International Application No. PCT/DE2004/000876 and was submitted under 35 U.S.C. §371 on October 25, 2005. Simultaneous with that submission, Applicants also filed a Preliminary Amendment, in which original claims 1-10 were canceled and rewritten as new claims 11-21 in order to conform the claims to standard United States practice.

Applicants subsequently filed a corrected translation of the International Application on August 22, 2006 in response to the Notification of Missing Requirements, dated June 14, 2006. The corrected translation included a corrected translation of original claims 1-10, presented in the International Application.

Inadvertently, the corrected translation was mis-entered as an amendment with overlapping claims. Thus, upon examination of the current application, it appeared that only claims 1-10 were pending. As a result, claims 11-21, which had been written to conform to U.S. standard claim practice including the removal of multiple dependencies and the

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inclusion of transition phrases in the claims, etc., were not examined and claims 1-10, which had been previously canceled, were examined.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-21, written to conform to standard U.S. practice, should have been examined in view of the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 25, 2005. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-21 overcome the objections and claim informalities identified by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Withdrawal of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

For the Examiner's convenience and for the purpose of preventing further confusion during prosecution of the current application, this Response includes a current listing of the claims. No further changes are being presented by way of this Response.

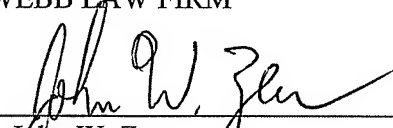
Conclusion:

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and consideration of claims 11-21 on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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